

We have students in Minnesota that sell plasma at the beginning of the semester to buy textbooks. We have students in Minnesota working at two or three minimum-wage jobs—it would help if we raised the minimum wage—while going to school. Therefore, it takes them 6 years. We have students in Minnesota no longer 19 living in the dorms. They are older. They have families. They are trying to afford the education to get back on their feet, to be able to obtain decent employment.

I am going to have an amendment out on the floor that will hold all of us accountable and see who is committed to making sure there is affordable higher education.

Mr. President, I want to mention two other amendments that I am going to introduce, one of them which speaks to the question I raised for my colleague from Missouri, by the way, who I think is a great chair of the Small Business Committee. I think we are good friends. We do not always agree on issues.

But I am going to have this time a recorded vote, because I had an amendment at the beginning of this Congress. I could see it coming, that it was the sense of the Senate that we would not take any action that would create more hunger or homelessness for children. And I lost. People voted against that amendment.

The third time around it was voice voted for approval. I wish I had not done that because I think it was dropped in the conference committee, as I remember. As I look at some of these proposed reductions, I see the same kind of action taken.

So this time I am going to have a recorded vote where we go on record that we will not pass any legislation that could create more hunger or homelessness among children; and if in fact the result of some of these cuts is to do just that, then the next year we will revisit the action that we have taken. It is important that the Senate go on record this time with a recorded vote.

Finally, Mr. President, I want to say to my colleagues, we went through the battle on the COPS Program, community policing, and we made sure that it was not block granted. We made sure that there was a focus on community police. I could brag for the next 24 hours, and I only have probably 2 minutes—I ask unanimous consent that I have 2 more minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WELLSTONE. About some of the work of the police chiefs and sheriffs in Minnesota and the men and women in law enforcement; very creative work to reduce violence in homes, very creative work with some of the kids, at risk kids, some of the kids that have the most trouble in schools, very creative work in some of the neighborhoods and some of the cities, but a program that has been extremely effective in metropolitan Minnesota and greater Minnesota.

I think I may come out with an amendment that makes sure that we in fact have the funding this next year for that program and make a commitment over the 6-year period.

Finally, Mr. President, let me just say that on the President's budget I do not find everything in there to be perfect. I think there is too much for the Pentagon. I think there is too much by way of tax cuts.

If I had my way—but I could never get my colleagues to vote for this; in fact I could not get quite a few Democrats to vote for it; I hardly got any support among Republicans. I want one more time on the floor of the Senate, with 1 minute left, to shout it from the mountaintop.

Why are you so anxious to cut educational opportunities for children, and job training, and not adequately fund community police, but you are more than willing to give away the wasteful subsidies to the pharmaceutical companies, to the oil companies, to the tobacco companies, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera?

Where is the Minnesota standard of fairness? What we have here, with the Republican proposal, is deficit reduction, a balanced budget, one more time, based on the path of least political resistance. You have your deepest cuts that affect those citizens who have the least amount of political clout. And when it comes to the big players, and the heavy hitters, and all the wasteful subsidies that go to so many of these large corporations, you hardly touch it. You hardly touch it. It is not credible. It is too extreme. And it should be defeated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, would the distinguished Senator from Missouri yield me 2 minutes for a brief statement?

Mr. BOND. Yes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader is recognized.

#### THE DEATH OF ADMIRAL BOORDA

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I take just a few minutes now to advise the Senate that I have just learned of the tragic death of Adm. Mike Boorda, the Chief of Naval Operations.

Since many of us were close personal friends with Admiral Boorda, and have dealt with him on a very close basis, I will take a moment to offer our prayers and very best thoughts to his family.

Admiral Boorda has been a model for our country. He rose through the enlisted ranks to become the leader of our Navy through hard work and perseverance. He was what is known in the Navy as a Mustang. He went in just as an enlisted sailor. He became the Chief of Naval Operations. Along the way, he was a surface warfare officer, and he commanded the U.S.S. *Farragut*, Destroyer Squadron 22, Cruiser-Destroyer Group 8, and Battle Force Sixth Fleet.

Most of us first saw the bright, intelligent and personable style of Admiral Boorda when he took over as Chief of Naval Personnel in August 1988. In 1991 he received his fourth star and became the commander in chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe. As CINCSOUTH, Admiral Boorda was in command of all NATO forces engaged in operations enforcing U.N. sanctions against the warring factions in the former Republic of Yugoslavia. On April 23, 1994, Admiral Boorda became the 25th Chief of Naval Operations.

Over the years, as a member of the Armed Services Committee, I have known many naval officers, and I have known, since being a Member of Congress, many Chiefs of Naval Operations. I have never known one better than Mike Boorda. The men and women of the Navy loved him.

I know my colleagues join me in remembering Admiral Boorda and expressing our deepest sympathies to his family. I yield the floor, Mr. President.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that before the whip leaves that I may just say a word or two and ask a question of him.

We have had a lot of shocking developments around this place, but none has shocked me more than the statement he just made.

Admiral Boorda was a truly outstanding man, a great friend of mine. In fact, the last time that I saw him was just a few weeks ago. And he stopped in my office, without any notice whatsoever, and he said that "I have nothing on my mind at all except to thank you for all the help that you have been over the years to the U.S. Navy." That is the kind of person he was.

Do you have any details at all on this? This had to be a very sudden affair. Do you know what caused his death? Could you explain a little bit?

Mr. LOTT. We do not know all the details, only what is being reported on CNN and through the Naval Congressional Liaison Office. I understand it was an accident of some sort of gunshot wound, that he perhaps went home at lunch, and this bullet wound was inflicted during that lunch period. And he had been discovered in the last couple of hours. I do not know any details other than that.

Mr. EXON. I thank my friend.

Mr. STEVENS. Will the Senator yield to me?

Mr. EXON. I will be glad to yield to the Senator from Alaska on the same basis.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I have come to the floor in a state of shock. Adm. Mike Boorda, a personal friend, traveled with me to my home State this year. I have spent many times with him in my office and in his office.

We will say a lot about him later, but Mike Boorda was the first Chief of Naval Operations to have been a walk-in enlistee. He was an enlisted man who worked his way through the Navy to the highest position in the Navy, as the CNO and Chief of Staff.

I really say to the Senate that this is a great loss. He suffered the loss of his father this year, very dramatic for Mike Boorda. And we talked a lot about that. But I hope that this is something that we can find a way to deal with very quickly because he is going to be sorely missed in this mix of our national defenses.

I think that from what I have heard, what the assistant majority leader just said, that we are in a different circumstance now. This is hard for us to take for certain what we have heard, which I hope is not true. It is a very difficult situation.

Mike Boorda I think was one of the bright stars of our military system today as it stands and is responsible for a lot of the initiatives that would have brought the Navy back to its prominence of days gone by. So I am really sad to be here.

I am pleased you have made the announcement, Senator LOTT. But that it is a most disturbing development is all I can tell the Senate, very disturbing.

Mr. BOND addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I also had the privilege, just several months ago, to be traveling with Admiral Boorda, and a couple weeks ago visited with him in my office again.

He was truly an outstanding person, had great ability and great dedication to this country, and was more than willing to make any kind of contributions he could. All we can say is that our thoughts and our prayers are with his family and loved ones. And it is with deep, deep sorrow and shock that we receive this news.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, suffice it to say I still have not recovered from the shock. I find myself in one of those positions that maybe we have all found ourselves in sometimes, having some kind of a bad dream but you know it will all turn out right and you will wake up. I am asking myself, am I having a dream? Obviously, I am not. This is a terrible, terrible shock. I simply want to join the others in wishing the best to the family. Our prayers are with all of them during these very, very difficult times.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I add my words of condolences. My memory of Admiral Boorda is coming to a meeting with women Senators with a number of other leaders from the military and being so concerned about making sure that this military moves forward in a way that is fair to women as well as to men. I will always remember that meeting.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, as a member of the Armed Services Committee, I was here when Admiral Boorda was first announced as the Chief of Naval Operations, the first man to come up through the ranks to become the Chief. I worked with him then on a variety of issues, but especially on his mind was the aftermath of Tailhook. As the only woman on the

Armed Services Committee, we had a chance to sit down and talk about what had happened and what could be done to get the Navy going in the right direction.

The Navy is very special to me because it is the service that my husband chose during the Korean war. I love the Navy, and Mike Boorda loved the Navy.

I want to say that I thought he did as much as any human being could do to be in charge of a service during the downsizing time, which everyone knew had to be done. He did it in a way that would plan for the future, to make sure that the strategic part of what the Navy does for our national defense and our security were strong. Yet, he had the compassionate side that worried very much about sexual harassment. He wanted to make sure that he instilled in the men and women that he served as their leader, that, in fact, the value system that was instilled in the men and women of the Navy was the most important part of their service. He did everything a human being could do to instill that value system in them. Every time a problem arose, I would talk to Mike Boorda and he would be showing concern and saying, "What more can we do?"

I think that he was a fine leader. I am stunned, as every one of us is, that we have lost this fine leader. I hope that his memory will be served as the person who was a man of his word, who served his country well, and who had the respect of everyone that met or touched his life. I yield the floor.

#### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET

The Senate continued with the consideration of the concurrent resolution.

AMENDMENT NO. 3971

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, how much time is remaining on each side of the amendment offered by the Senator from Missouri?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska is advised each side has approximately 8 minutes remaining.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I yield 4 minutes to the Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. President, I have a heavy heart about this amendment, because I think if we do anything on this floor we should cross party lines and honor the children of this country.

What this amendment will do is hurt the children of this country and hurt them badly. We know that right now one in five children in America lives in poverty. Yet, this amendment would turn these children against the veterans in this country. That is not what we should be doing.

The fact is, we are talking here about assistance to disabled children. We ought to think about what I mean when I say a disabled child. We are talking about a child with cerebral

palsy. We are talking about a child with spina bifida. We are talking about a child with heart problems. We are talking about children who are so vulnerable they cannot even get up in the morning without assistance. And we are going to cut from their sustenance? I do not know how we do that.

The irony about this amendment, it does not increase the caps on discretionary spending. So even if we vote for this, the chances that veterans will get more are not very good.

I think I really have to say there is something that I think my friend from Missouri is missing in his amendment. Maybe he does not realize that half a million veterans are on welfare. Half a million veterans are on welfare. So when he cuts welfare to give to veterans, he forgets that half a million veterans are going to get hurt by this. We know who they are—veterans who just cannot make it back, who were suffering from disabling diseases, be they physical or mental, half a million of whom are on welfare, some form of welfare. So we cut this. We are saying we are cutting it in order to help veterans, yet we are cutting 500,000 of the most vulnerable veterans.

I really believe there are other ways we can help the veterans. I would like to cut corporate loopholes. I would like to cut corporate welfare. That is what I am going to vote to do. We have a lot of corporate loopholes out there that need to be closed, businesses that get favorable tax treatment if they leave the country, people escaping taxation who were very wealthy. We should go after corporate welfare, not go after the disabled children, the disabled veterans. Then, we should spend it on the veterans.

I think we, on the Democratic side, will have an opportunity to honor our veterans by increasing what we spend on them by taking the money out of corporate loopholes, corporate tax loopholes. I think everyone can get behind that. However, we should not hurt the most vulnerable children, the most vulnerable veterans.

I really do believe that my ranking member is going to have an excellent amendment, instead of this one, which turns our veterans against the most severely disabled children and the most severely disabled veterans.

I yield the floor.

Mr. COHEN. I ask unanimous consent to proceed for a few minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ADMIRAL BOORDA

Mr. COHEN. Mr. President, Senator LOTT a moment ago spoke about the life and death of Adm. Jeremy Mike Boorda. I think all of us were stunned by this revelation.

Yesterday, most of us, Republican and Democrat alike, were shocked, and saddened, in some respects, at the announcement of another man of character and courage who decided to leave